

63-9123//

6 December 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: Dr. Wheelon

I would like some information on the material that will come down to earth intact from NASA's proposed December SATURN launching. Secretary Rusk said that he had a report from his scientific adviser, Mr. Rolefson, who advised him that there will be a substantial number of chunks of steel weighing about 100 - 150 lbs. apiece which will land at various places on the earth and would not burn up or vaporize in their descent.

Rolefson further stated that NASA made an estimate that the chance of accident to a human was one to 50,000 and hence it was an acceptable risk. I pointed out to Rusk that if these figures are true, the ratio of accident would be about 100 people in the Los Angeles basin, 500 in New York, and I don't know how many more in Tokyo and Moscow.

I would like to be informed of this personally. I don't want to get the Agency involved, but find out if NASA is going forward with this on this basis or whether Mr. Rolefson is incorrectly informed.

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JOHN A. McCONE
Director

*Dictated but not read

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1. 50000 C-1 + 5-1 + NC + EACR
19,000
5000
2. 38,700 in ORBIT.
3. 2800lb in 32 chunks with
12000 pieces from orbit.
4. 1/50,000 in pieces in 32 with
1400 pieces

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